EBS AI PengTalk — South Korea's Public AI English-Speaking Tutor, Tested in a 54-School Randomised Trial

AI in Education · Good practice · South Korea

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Public broadcaster EBS, with Ministry of Education support, built AI PengTalk, an AI speaking tutor for primary pupils learning English. It reached about 810,000 pupils in about 3,000 schools by 2023. A 4-week trial found significant gains in confidence but not in test scores.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	2/3
Equity & inclusion	2/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	1/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	2/3
Scalability & sustainability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-18

EBS (Korea Educational Broadcasting System) with the Ministry of Education — accessed 2026-11-18

Um et al. (2024), Universal Access in the Information Society — RCT — accessed 2026-11-18

GIST repository record of the study — accessed 2026-11-18

Financial News (2023) — 810,000 pupils, 3,000 schools — accessed 2026-11-18

Lady Kyunghyang (2023) — open launch, 520,000 users — accessed 2026-11-18

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